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Vol. 1 No. 8

May, 1913

# MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT



City Hall



Central Police Station

## THE GATEWAY TO THE GOLDEN WEST



Statue of Gen. N. B. Forrest, in Forrest Park

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF MEMPHIS

BLUFF CITY  
ENG. CO.



# ROSTER OF CITY OFFICIALS

**MAYOR**  
**Edward Hull Crump**

*W. M. Pope, Sec'y to Mayor*

**VICE-MAYOR**  
**R. A. Utley**

## Board of City Commissioners

### Department of Public Affairs and Health

**E. H. Crump, Commissioner**  
*Dr. Max Goltman, Supt. Health*

### Department of Fire and Police

**R. A. Utley, Commissioner**  
*W. J. Hayes, Chief of Police* *John McFadden, Chief Fire Dept.*  
*William J. Bacon, Judge of City Court*

### Department of Streets, Bridges and Sewers

**Geo. C. Love, Commissioner**  
*J. H. Weatherford, City Engineer*

### Department of Accounts, Finance and Revenue

**E. R. Parham, Commissioner**  
*Ennis M. Douglass, City Clerk* *Frank S. Omberg, City Treasurer*  
*J. T. Miskeal, City Paymaster and Purchasing Agent*

### Department of Public Utilities, Grounds and Buildings

**Thomas Dies, Commissioner**  
*Dan C. Newton, Building Inspector*

**CITY ATTORNEY** - - - - - **Chas. M. Bryan**  
**CITY TAX ASSESSOR** - - - - - **T. G. Scarbrough**

# MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE CITY OF MEMPHIS

Volume 1

Memphis, Tennessee, May 1913

Number 8

## No Room for Loafers at City Hall

*"Early to duty; late to stay; a full day's work for a full day's pay."*  
—A Commission Government Motto.

Has it ever occurred to you that Memphis is getting a great deal more work out of her public servants under Commission Government than ever before in the history of the city?

Maybe you are one of the many who still cling to the old idea that "public office is a private snap." Perhaps you look upon the man who works for the city as being something of a parasite, clinging to and fattening off the body politic and yielding little in return.

Better visit the city hall some day and get that idea out of your head.

### Come in Unannounced.

Don't let us know beforehand that you are coming.

Come right in without knocking, and MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT believes you will go out the same way.

None of the haphazard methods which thrived under the old bicameral form of government are in vogue now at the city hall. It is doubtful if there is a business corporation anywhere that comes nearer getting value received from its employes than does the City of Memphis, under Commission Government. Nor is the city a tyrannical boss.

MAYOR CRUMP BELIEVES IN PAYING GOOD SALARIES AND DEMANDING GOOD WORK IN RETURN.

### Holidays Are Rare.

When the old order of things prevailed the City Hall would allow no bank or postoffice to outdo it in taking holidays. And many occasions of which even those institutions took no cognizance were eagerly seized upon as a pretext for closing the front doors and allowing the boys to go fishing.

A city employe would have probably been mistaken for a burglar if he showed up at the City Hall before 10 o'clock in the morning or remained on duty after 3 o'clock in the afternoon. It was figured that anybody who was smart enough to land one of those "soft snaps" was smart enough to "earn" his salary in that time and it mattered little whether or not the city's business was properly looked after.

That has all been changed under Commission Government.

Ask the first city employe you meet what time he got "on the job" this morning.

It makes no difference whether that man be the Mayor or whether he be one of the "White Wings" of the street cleaning department, it's dollars to doughnuts you will find that he was at work by 8 o'clock.

Ask him when he last took a holiday.

He will tell you now that last Christmas Day was the last one and that he was working hard to earn another on the Fourth of July. These, with Thanksgiving Day, are the only occasions which Commission Government recognizes as appropriate for general holidays.

A visit of inspection to the City Hall would open wide the eyes of Memphians who have not been here since Commission Government took charge of the city's affairs something over three years ago.

## City Bouquets

*In Northern Michigan.*

**In Memphis and in Saginaw**

Each month the city of Memphis issues a pamphlet for free distribution among the people. It deals with city administration and public affairs. On the first page are instructions to citizens on the rules which govern the conduct of city business. Citizens are invited to make complaints about public service which is improperly performed or omitted. From these instructions to the people we take a few which will illustrate the manner in which the city of Memphis is governed. There are many others, but these will suffice:

If your garbage is not removed promptly, phone 1849, either "bonsa" or "bona".

If your neighbor's back yard is in sanitary, if you have been served with impure milk or foodstuffs, if you see anything that is a menace to the public health, notify either phone 178.

If your street is dusty and needs sprinkling, call either phone 1878.

In case of fire call either phone 2.

In case of injury call either phone 174 for ambulance.

If your street lights are not burning, phone 582.

If you desire to make complaints as to rates or service for gas, electricity, telephones or street cars, phone 582.

If you have a complaint to make as to water service or rates, phone 509.

Imagine the city government conducted on these lines in Saginaw! Permit your brain to roam at random and draw a mental picture of the politicians who run this town inviting the people to let them know where and how they can serve them.

In Memphis the city authorities want the people to inform them how they can make Memphis better. Think what they are doing, not merely for the people, but for the city of Memphis!

In Saginaw a politician who can't "work the people" and help the gang in its various enterprises is counted not worth his hire and incompetent to "run the city." And we know what these politicians are doing, not only to the people, but to the city of Saginaw!

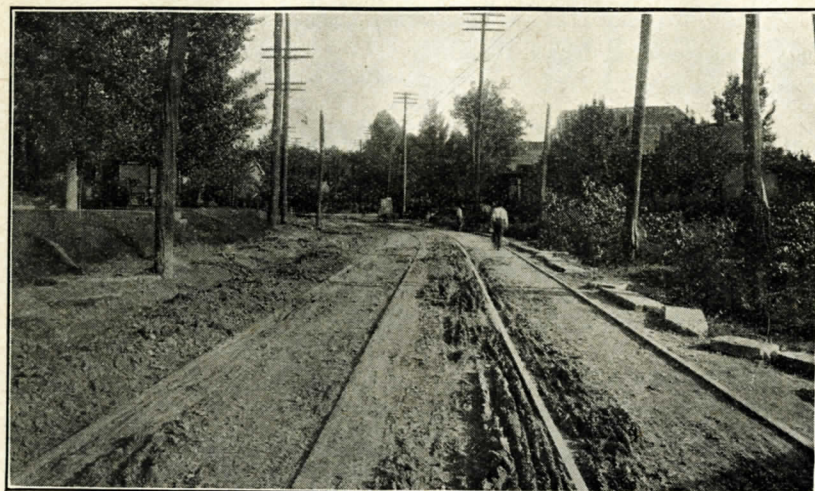
Of course Memphis has commission government. As the Kansas City Star asks in commenting on the Memphis plan, did you ever hear of a city that did not have commission government anxious to invite people to make complaints of the public service?

In Saginaw if any criticism of public service is ventured the politicians boil with righteous indignation. The streets may go uncleaned for weeks, but if a word is said about it you are "knocking" the city. Property may be without adequate fire protection, but a demand for necessary equipment to fight fire with is a "blow" to Saginaw's reputation. The weary taxpayer whose whiskers have grown long in the last eight years may humbly ask about the prospect of getting a market, and he, too, is rebuked for "carrying an ax." Just so. And some day the people will all get hold of axes, and when they do they will clean out the politicians and possibly get something like Memphis has in the way of city government and public service.

Above is a fac-simile of an editorial which appeared in the Saginaw (Mich.) News on Monday, April 21. MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT extends thanks to the News.



## OBJECT LESSONS IN CITY BUILDING



### No. 5.

With the January number, MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT inaugurated a series of pictures, illustrative of marked improvements made in Memphis since the advent of Commission Government. The fifth of the series is presented on this page, showing the effect of paving Mississippi boulevard.

### City Tax Rate Remains at \$1.58

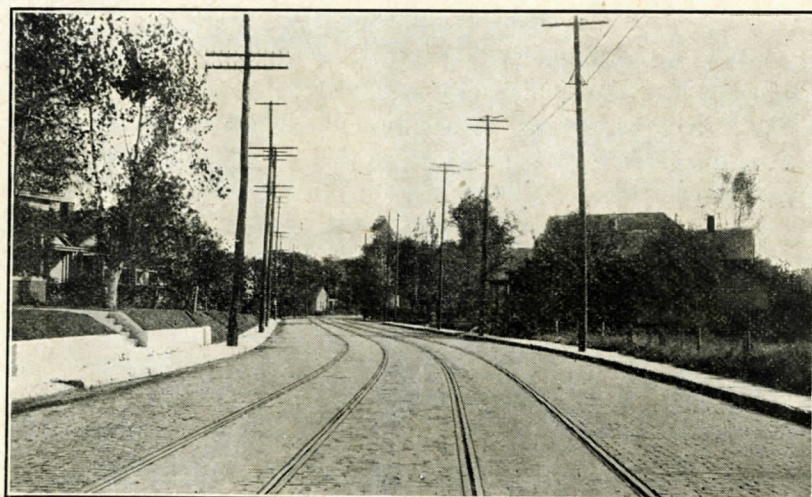
The city tax rate for the year 1913 will be \$1.58, this being the same figure that prevailed last year.

In the face of demands from all city departments for more money to operate on, made necessary by the rapid growth of the city, and the extraordinary expense to which the city was put in connection with the 1912 and 1913 overflow, which affected a small section of North Memphis, it was deemed inadvisable to reduce the rate this year. True, the city will realize more money from taxes, due to a natural increase in taxable values; however, this additional money will not begin to take care of the wants of the various departments to take care of contemplated improvements, etc.

#### Mayor Is Optimistic.

The total realty assessment is \$90,303,260, according to final figures of City Assessor T. G. Scarbrough, compiled after the Board of Equalization had completed its work on this class of taxes. This is an increase of \$7,142,700 over last year's realty total. The board has not passed on personalty or merchants' capital as MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT goes to press; however, it is estimated that the former will amount to about \$14,000,000 and the latter to \$6,500,000. It is estimated the State's assessment of railroads, street railways, telephone and telegraph property, etc., will be slightly over \$9,000,000, bringing the grand total to approximately \$120,000,000.

"I am confident that, under Commission Government, the city tax rate of Memphis will finally reach a level of \$1.50," said Mayor Crump, in commenting on the present rate. "This is about where it should be, though, of course, it takes time to bring about such a revolution. Then if the county commission is successful in having the county tax reduced some, Memphis will enjoy an exceptionally low rate."



### City Buying Plan Lauded by Journal

"Municipal Engineering," one of the recognized authorities on municipal affairs, published at Indianapolis, Ind., pays a splendid tribute to Memphis' system of purchasing city supplies in its April edition. Under the caption, "Men Prominent in Municipal Affairs," appears an article highly complimentary to City Purchasing Agent J. T. Miskeal, who is in charge of this department.

"The great loss due to the buying of supplies for a city by separate departments without the co-operation of other departments has been very successfully overcome by the city of Memphis," says Municipal Engineering. Then follows a column and a half devoted to a recital of the Commission Government plan, as applied here, which has heretofore been treated in these columns.

The purchasing department is one of the most effective cogs in the machinery of Memphis' government, and its successful operation has resulted in the saving of thousands of dollars annually to the city.

### Transformation on Mississippi Blvd.

One of the notable accomplishments of Commission Government is to be found on Mississippi boulevard, in the vicinity of the Parkway. This thoroughfare was formerly known as the old Hernando road, having for many years been one of the main arteries connecting the city with the surrounding territory. Its location represents a bit of unconscious "city planning" which was done before the term was invented. It is one of the seven turnpikes, resembling the spokes of a wheel, which lead into Memphis from the north, east and south.

The completion of this improvement afforded another first-class pavement all the way from the heart of the city to the corporate limits. The cost was borne partially by the abutting property owners, under the front-foot assessment plan, and partially from the turnpike fund, the street railway company paving their portion as usual.

### Training Tower is now in Service

The fine new training tower for the Memphis Fire Department has been completed and Chief McFadden's boys are making daily use of it. The tower is ideally located in Chickasaw Park, adjoining Engine House No. 5, the home of the central headquarters of the department. It is neatly painted a fawn color, with bright gilded dome, and adds to rather than detracts from the general beauty of the little park.

Fire and Police Commissioner Utley is confident that the value of the tower will be reflected in the increased efficiency of the firemen, each of whom will be required to practice at given times the art of wall scaling, ladder climbing, hose raising, life-saving, and, in fact, every duty that a fire fighter is called upon to perform.

### To Start Work on New "White Way"

Active work will begin at an early date upon the new Main street lighting system, which, when complete, will give Memphis the longest "White Way" in the South and one of the longest in the United States. An ordinance covering a contract for the lighting of the cluster lights by the Merchants' Power Company was introduced for first reading by Commissioner Dies on May 20th.

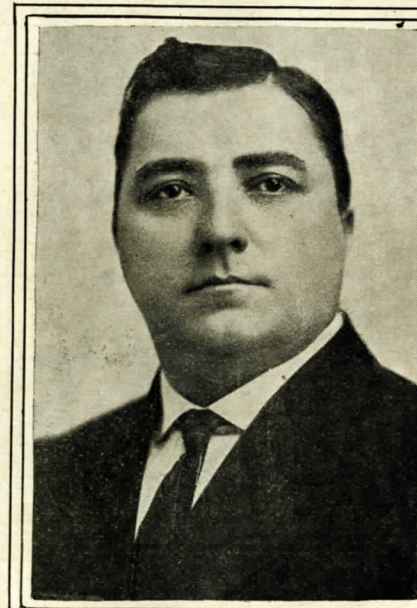
There will be 326 of the ornamental cluster lights in the Main street system, each composed of five globes, or a total of 1,630 individual lights. It is proposed to have the system ready for service not later than September 1st.

### To Vote on Levee Bonds on May 29

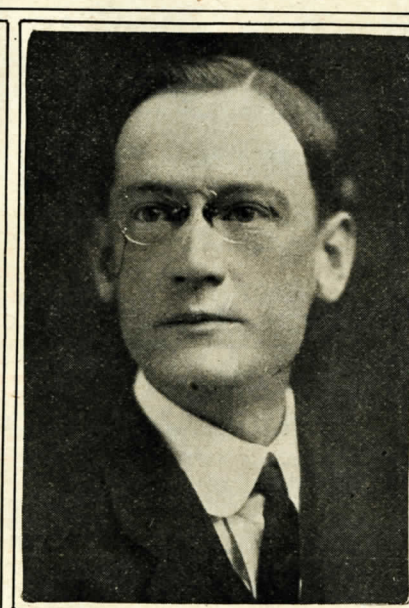
Shall the city of Memphis issue bonds in the sum of \$1,500,000 to be expended in carrying out a comprehensive plan for the protection of North Memphis against any future overflow of the Mississippi river?

This question will be determined at a special referendum election to be held in the city on May 29, and upon its outcome will largely depend the future of a small area contiguous to Bayou Gayoso which has been inundated from time to time. The election will be held under the provisions of a bill recently enacted by the State Legislature authorizing the city to issue the bonds, subject to approval of the people.

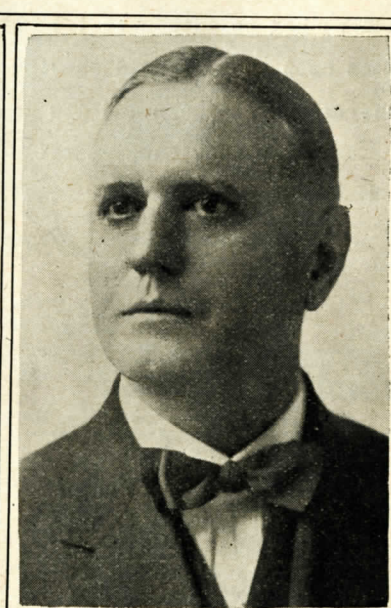
## CITY PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE



WILLIAM BERGSCHICKER.



CLARK E. COE.



JOHN M. STEEN.

## A NEW "FROLIC SPOT" FOR CHILDREN

A municipal playground for every thickly populated section of Memphis is the goal which the city's playground committee is striving to reach. The committee is composed of William Bergschicker, chairman; Clark E. Coe, secretary, and Judge J. M. Steen.

The latest acquisition by the city for playground purposes is a large lot fronting both Poplar and Washington avenues, which was purchased recently from Mrs. Overton Lea. The site is located opposite the intersection of Poplar avenue and Alabama avenue. It measures 142 feet front, with a depth of 340 feet, which affords ample space for a large playground.

#### Plan Fine Equipment.

The committee is now arranging to equip the new playground with modern

apparatus for the enjoyment of the little folk. Teeter boards, swings, horizontal bars—and, in fact, everything that is calculated to make a youngster happier and healthier will be found there when the playground is formally opened at a later date.

This makes the second playground to be provided for the little folk since the advent of Commission Government, the other being located at Washington avenue and North Fourth street. There is also a third one at Market Square, which, however, was established prior to 1910, when the change in government took place.

#### Citizens Can Help.

The playground at Washington avenue and North Fourth street was donated to the city by Rozier & Hein, well-

known Memphis business men, who also equipped the ground. This playground is immensely popular with children living in a large area close to the uptown district and the wisdom of its establishment is reflected by many rosy cheeks and bright eyes among the little folk.

"In time we hope to have a playground for every section of the city," declared Chairman Bergschicker, in outlining the committee's plans. "However, we realize that it takes time to work these plans out. I know of no greater monument a citizen could leave behind him than a well-equipped playground, and I hope every Memphian who has a suitable piece of property and can afford to do so will donate it for this purpose. It will work wonders for the future citizenship of Memphis."



## Bond Experts Praise Memphis

John F. Dillon,  
John C. Thomson,  
George F. Clay.

TELEPHONE 6650 | CORTLANDT

Dillon, Thomson & Clay,  
Attorneys & Counsellors at Law,  
Western Union Building, 195 Broadway,  
New York, May 6, 1913.

Ennis M. Douglass, Esq.,  
City Clerk,  
Memphis, Tennessee.

Dear Sir:-

We received a few days ago three copies of "Memphis Commission Government" for April, 1913, and as we suppose that we are indebted to you for these copies we write to thank you for your courtesy in sending them to us. The publication contains much matter of interest regarding the City and we beg to extend to the City Government our congratulations upon the splendid showing which is made with respect to the City's finances and its general condition.

With kind personal regards, we remain,

Very truly yours,

Dillon, Thomson & Clay

### Attorneys Extend Congratulations

In a letter to City Clerk Ennis M. Douglass, a facsimile of which appears above, Dillon, Thomson & Clay, the famous New York bond attorneys, pay a splendid tribute to MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT. The members of this firm rank among the most noted bond experts in the world and their approval of bond issues is accepted by bankers and financiers everywhere as being the most dependable "O. K." to be had.

Dillon, Thomson & Clay have had much opportunity to become thoroughly conversant with Memphis and her resources, having passed on this city's bonds on a number of occasions heretofore. They are slow to give an opinion on any subject, a fact which makes this unsolicited compliment to MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT doubly appreciated by the City Commissioners.

Requests are being received daily from public officials, business men, firms, libraries, etc., for copies of Memphis' municipal monthly, and the mailing list is growing by leaps and bounds. More than two thousand copies monthly are distributed throughout the United States, in addition to the five thousand which are given circulation among local taxpayers.

### Utley Offers New Auto Ordinance

A greater safeguard to the public of Memphis is promised by an ordinance which has been introduced for passage by Fire and Police Commissioner R. A. Utley, in which automobiles are prohibited from passing street cars while cars are receiving or discharging passengers. The purpose of the ordinance is to eliminate a class of accidents which is rapidly growing in frequency in big cities throughout the world.

Scores have been killed and many more maimed for life in accidents caused by autos passing street cars at a rapid rate when passengers were boarding or alighting from cars. With the use of the auto becoming more general every day the danger has, of course, increased; however, it is believed that Commissioner Utley's ordinance will solve the problem locally.

Under the new ordinance no chauffeur or driver of an automobile is permitted to proceed so long as there is a street car standing at a street crossing which he is about to pass. The auto must be brought to a full stop within not less than fifteen feet of the rear end of the car and there remain until the street car proceeds. Thus it is hoped to avoid many accidents which have heretofore appeared "unavoidable."

## Camp Crump Ends Second Season

The splendid way in which Memphis took care of the refugees from the lowlands of Arkansas and Mississippi during the recent overflow of the Mississippi river, has been the subject of much favorable comment. Camp Crump, located at the Tri-State Fair grounds, where more than 2,000 were housed, clothed and fed for several weeks, was closed on May 3, after the last refugee had been safely returned to his home.

Under the general direction of J. A. Riechman the camp was conducted along lines which would have done credit to a United States army camp. Mr. Riechman was also in charge last year and his experience stood him in good stead, for while the 1912 camp was a success from



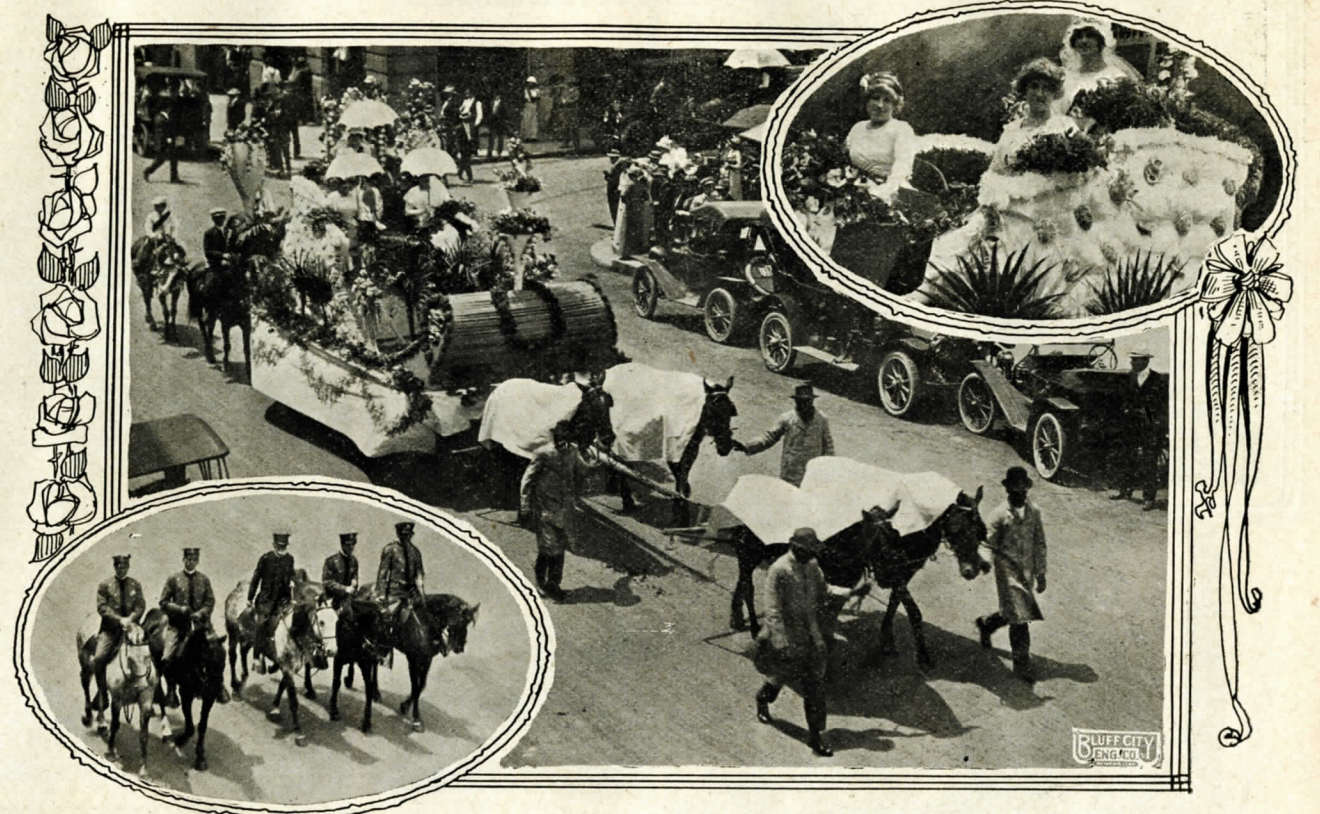
J. A. RIECHMAN.

every standpoint, many improvements were made this year.

Mr. Riechman had the full co-operation of the Associated Charities and the city government on both occasions. J. P. Kranz, general secretary of the charitable organization, of which Mr. Riechman is also a director, was constantly at the camp and rendered most valuable service, as did Charles E. Brower, whose whole-hearted charity has earned him the sobriquet of "Santa Claus" Brower among those who know of his activity in alleviating suffering among the poor of Memphis.

Sergeant Harry Morrison, of the mounted police squad, served as general superintendent of the camp. Other members of the police department were assigned to duty, too, and to them belong the credit for the excellent discipline maintained at all times. The sanitation of the camp was taken care of by the city sanitary department, and the health of the refugees was safeguarded by the health department.

## FEATURES OF MAIFEST PAGEANT



### German Holiday a Gala Occasion

Monday, May 5th, will long be remembered by the thousands of Teutonic citizens of Memphis who joined on that day in the celebration of the "Maifest," the principal German holiday of the year. The celebration this year was declared to be the most elaborate yet attempted by the Teutonia Society, the central body of the half-dozen "Vaderland" organizations of the city.

Miss Katherine Wettman, one of the most attractive young ladies in the local German colony, enacted the role of Freya, or "Queen of the May." She is shown occupying the seat of honor in the above photograph of the attractive float which led the Maifest parade, and she is accompanied by her maids of honor, Misses Louise Weiner and Louise Goetz, both popular in German circles. L. G. Fritz, president of the Teutonia Society, was Frey, or King.

The magnificent street parade was a feature of the day, which all Memphians were permitted to enjoy. A platoon of mounted police, closely followed by a carriage in which Mayor Crump and Vice-Mayor Utley were seated, led the pageant, in which practically every prominent German in Memphis took a part.

Following the parade the scene of interest was shifted to East End Park, where from noon until midnight songs of "Der Vaderland" were intermingled with peals of laughter, and good cheer abounded on every hand.

### Business Men's Club Holds Warmest Election in History

#### B. M. C. OFFICERS FOR 1913.

First Vice-President,

T. R. Winfield (Red).

Second Vice-President,

G. F. Macgregor (Blue).

Treasurer,

William Pritchard (Red).

Directors.

A. Y. Allen (R), J. A. Fowler (B), E. E. Clarke (R), W. B. Gray (B), T. A. Evans (R), W. C. Jones (B), J. W. Gates (R), C. R. Miller (B), Joseph Hattendorf (R), C. B. Quinn (B), W. P. McCadden (R), J. S. Rawlings (B), R. P. Towner (R), L. M. Stratton (B).

Charles O. Scholder will guide the destinies of the Business Men's Club during the next twelve months.

Mr. Scholder was the unanimous choice of the club's board of directors at an election held May 9th, for the presidency of the South's greatest commercial organization. The directors themselves were elected on April 26th, in the hottest election the club has ever seen, as were also two vice-presidents and a treasurer.

Although, as usual, the utmost good fellowship prevailed throughout the campaign and on election day, the rivalry be-

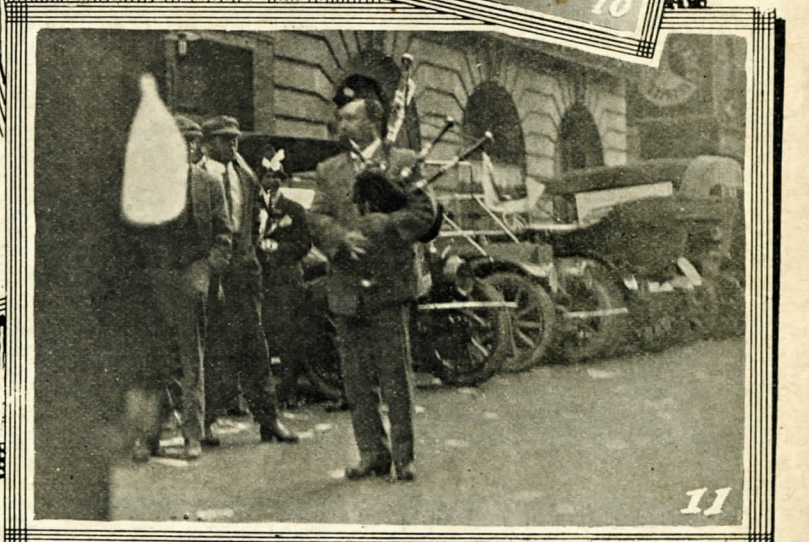
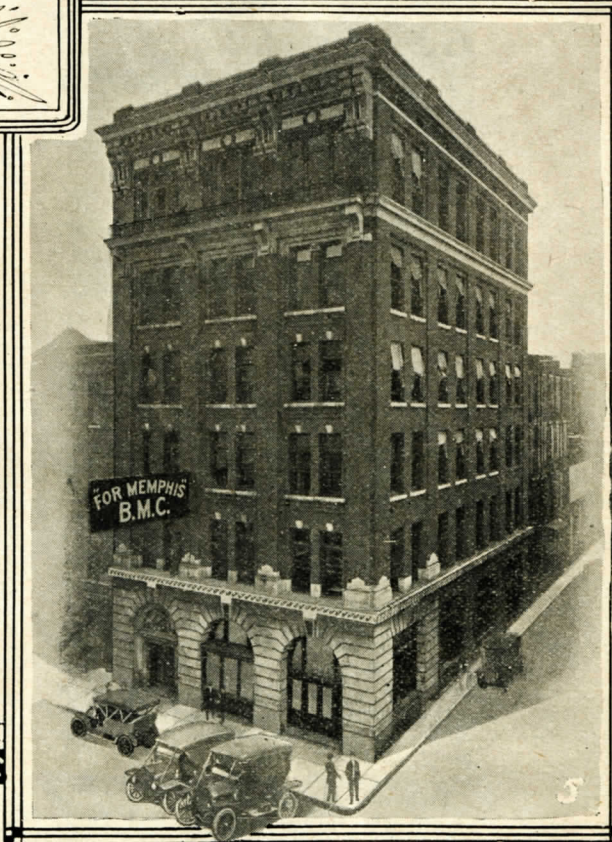
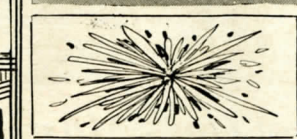
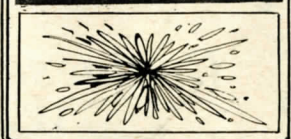
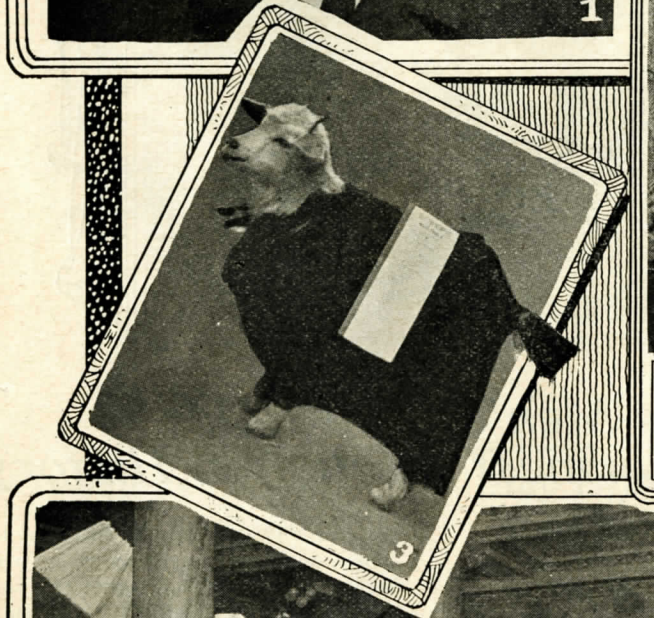
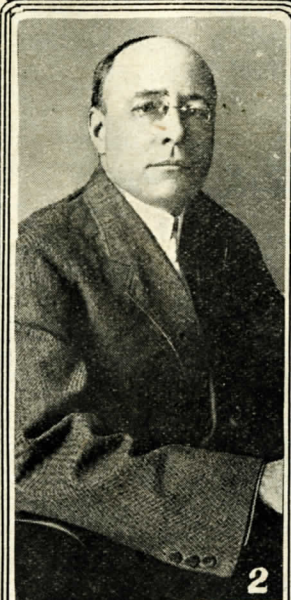
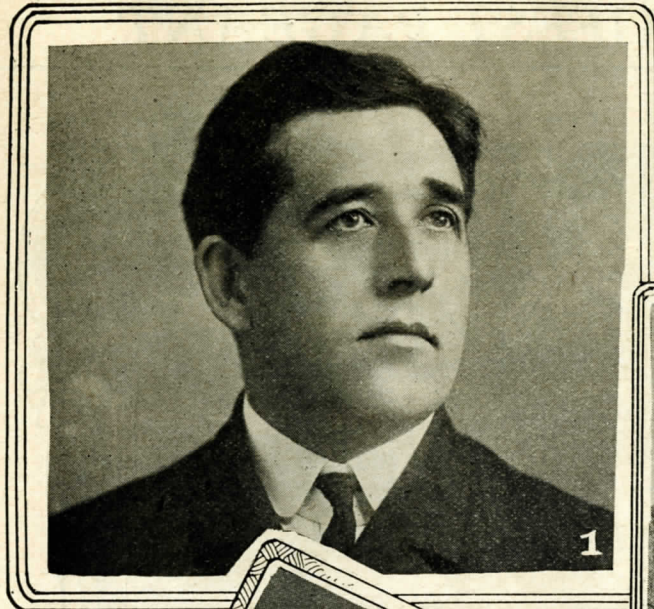
tween the two tickets, the Reds and the Blues, was fierce, and many novel stunts were pulled off by both sides. One campaign committee literally stole the Madison avenue "White Way" in the wee sma' hours of the night, removing the plain globes and substituting red ones. The effect was dazzling on the following night.

For the day staid and dignified business men became boys again and left their dignity at home. The uptown business district was a riot of color and pandemonium reigned throughout the day, while barkers perspired behind immense megaphones and "heelers" darted back and forth in search of votes.

When the final vote was announced the splendid work of both campaign committees was reflected in the returns, the Reds electing nine and the Blues eight of the officers. It was as near an even break as it was possible to secure and everybody, including the losers, expressed the utmost satisfaction at the result. A love feast followed, during which the club's new officials pledged their best efforts toward making 1913 the banner year in the Business Men's Club's history.



# ALL MEMPHIS TAKES NOTICE WHEN B. M. C. HOLDS ELECTION



1. C. O. SCHOLDER, Elected President by New Board of Directors.  
2. JOHN M. TUTHER, Secretary, the Only Neutral Member on Election.

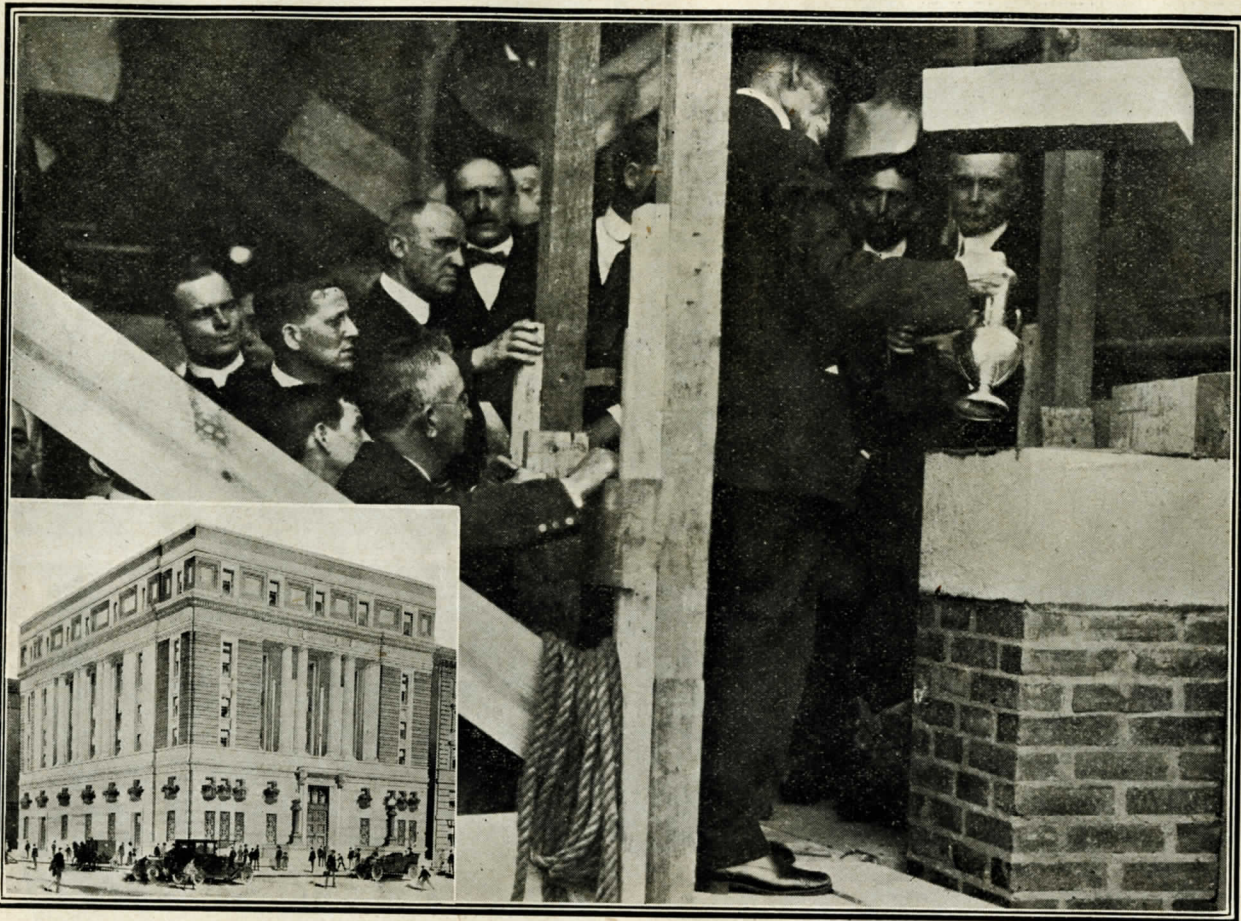
3. "WE'VE GOT THEIR GOAT."  
4. THE BATTLE OF THE BALLOTS.  
5. MAGNIFICENT HOME OF B. M. C.

6. WHERE THE CAMPAIGN WAS WARMEST.  
7. "WE'RE FROM MISSOURI," FOR McCADDEN.  
8. J. T. FISHER "WHOOPING" FOR REDS.

9. JOE FOWLER'S CLOWN.  
10. TWO "LITTLE BOY BLUES."  
11. PLAYING A HIGHLAND FLING FOR MACGREGOR.



Cornerstone is Placed in Fine New Masonic Temple



Masons Christen Memphis Home

Prominent Masons from all parts of Tennessee attended the laying of the corner-stone of the magnificent new Masonic Temple, now in course of erection at the corner of East Court avenue and North Fourth street, on the afternoon of May 6. The ceremonies occurred on the third floor of the new structure, following a street parade, in which the various Masonic bodies of the city participated. The parade was led by the famous Al Chymia band and a platoon of the "city's finest" mounted police.

Right Worthy Deputy Grand Master Thomas J. Bonner, of Rives, Tenn., placed records relating to each lodge in the city, including names of present officials, etc., in the corner-stone. An attractive programme was carried out in connection with the ceremonies, in which Rev. H. C. Williamson, Israel H. Peres, Rabbi Max Samfield, and a splendid quartette participated. John W. Bailey was master of ceremonies.

When completed the new temple will be a worthy companion to the new Scottish Rite Cathedral on Union avenue, opposite Forrest Park, and the two will give the Scottish Rite and York Rite Masons of Memphis homes superior to any in the entire South and equal of any in the country. The temple will be ready for occupancy by Jan. 1, 1914.

High School Girls Master "First Aid to Matrimony"

To those who subscribe to the theory that "the surest way to a man's heart lies through his stomach," the domestic science department of Central High School must appeal as a first aid to matrimony. A revelation awaits the Memphian who may be so fortunate as to "get in" on one of the dainty luncheons that are served daily at the High School building during certain periods of the school term.

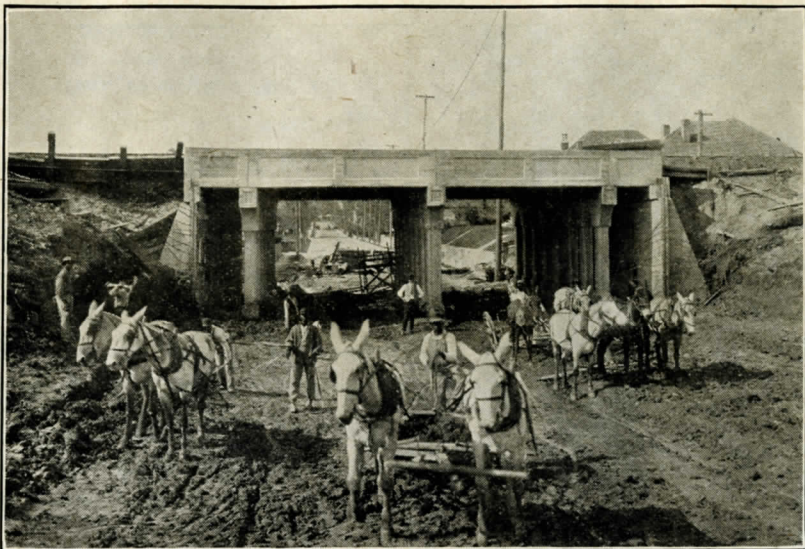
Miss Lutes, in charge of the domestic science class, is not a theorist. She believes that an ounce of practical demonstration is worth a car load of book lore in teaching young ladies to become good cooks, hence the daily luncheons were inaugurated, not to make a bid for empty praise for the pupils, but rather to give them practical experience in the preparation and serving of meals.

Two pupils are assigned to prepare and serve a luncheon for four persons, the entire cost not to exceed \$1.25. No skimping is permitted. There must be a sufficient quantity of food to supply a second helping to each guest, if requested, and each helping must be as generous as one would expect to get at home or at a hotel. Thus economy as well as a mastery of the culinary art is instilled in the heads of future housewives.

Here is the spread set before a party of four, which included a representative of MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT and a lean, hungry city editor of one of our daily contemporaries, together with the cost of each item.

Menu.	
	Cost.
Fruit cocktail .....	.11½
Broiled halibut .....	.35
New potatoes .....	.35
Creamed asparagus .....	.16¾
Hot biscuit .....	.02
Lettuce salad .....	.08¼
Lemon sherbet .....	.08¼
Angel cake .....	.05¾
Coffee (with cream) .....	.14
Milk, butter, crackers .....	.16
Total .....	\$1.23 1-24

SUBWAY WORK IS PROGRESSING



Work on Subway Goes Right Along

Work upon the two subways now under construction is moving along at a satisfactory rate. Herewith is presented views taken recently, the upper being that of the Barksdale street subway and the lower of the Main street subway.

Following the completion of the Barksdale subway the street railway company will extend its line through the subway over Barksdale to Young avenue, thence east to Cooper street, where connection will be made with lines serving the Tri-State Fair grounds.

The Main street subway will eliminate one of the most dangerous grade crossings the city ever had, this being the third to give place to subways since the advent of Commission Government.

Miss Ida Henry is Tax Collector

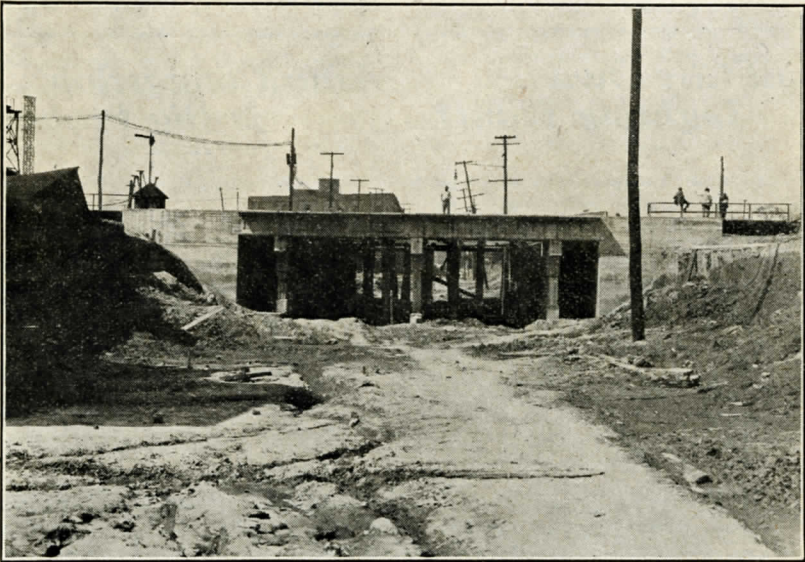
Miss Ida O. Henry, for twenty years past chief deputy in the Sheriff's office, has been elected poll tax collector of Shelby county, and will be the first to serve under the recently enacted law which created the office.

Miss Henry was elected by the County Court on May 12th. The selection came as a surprise, inasmuch as she was not among the half-dozen or more candidates who were exerting every effort and influence to land the plum. When it was announced, however, that "Miss Ida" was the unanimous choice of the court the unsuccessful aspirants were among the first to grasp her hand and at the same time congratulate the court upon the wisdom of its choice.

Miss Henry will assume her new duties on June 1. Under provisions of the new act she will have entire charge of all poll tax collections, for which she will receive commissions upon a graduated scale provided by the act itself. For the first 10,000 polls collected she will receive 12 cents each; for the next 20,000 the fee will be 30 cents each, and for all over 30,000 her commission will be 40 cents each, with an additional 35 cents each for delinquent polls collected, this fee, however, to be paid by the taxpayer.

Nashville Boosters See Real City

The Business Men's Club was host to a large party of Nashville business men, members of the Nashville Board of Trade, on May 21. Memphis was included in the itinerary of an extensive junket which the Capital City party is taking through the state for the purpose of promoting closer trade relations between Tennesseans and Nashville merchants.

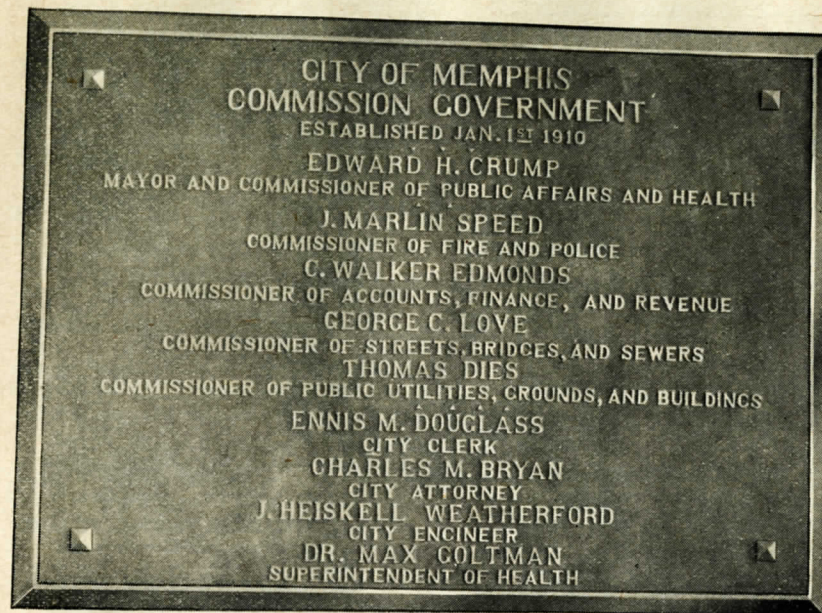


Comparative Statement of Receipts, City of Memphis, Tenn., Commission Government

		—Month of April—		Increase.	Decrease.
		1912.	1913.		
Building Commissioner.....	\$ 597.50	\$ 952.65	\$ 355.15		
Meat Inspector.....	193.15	211.60	18.45		
Inspector Weights and Measures.....	287.34	443.40	156.06		
Plumbing Inspector.....	425.00	223.17		\$ 201.83	
Boiler Inspector.....		38.00	38.00		
License Collector.....	385.25	718.80	333.55		
City Clerk.....	112.50	1,331.25	1,218.75		
Police Department.....		3.00	3.00		
City Engineer.....	1,048.42	1,149.60	448.18		
Interest on Bank Balances.....		646.30	646.30		
Interest on Bank Balances, Water Dept.....		4.58	4.58		
Subway .....		9,240.18	9,240.18		
Gas Inspector.....	191.50	282.50	91.00		
Wharfage .....	330.90	330.55		.35	
Market House.....	715.00	776.75	61.75		
City Hospital.....	1,000.00	1,284.95	284.95		
Board of Health and Garbage.....	400.50	531.71	431.21		
Fines and Forfeitures.....	2,259.20	1,256.10		1,003.10	
Int. Electrical Inspector.....	531.71	493.36		38.35	
Special Improvement Fund.....	3.05			3.05	
	\$ 8,481.02	\$20,565.45	\$13,331.11	\$ 1,246.68	
Increase over 1912.....	12,084.43			12,084.43	
	\$20,465.45			\$13,331.11	



## MARKER FOR COMMISSION GOVERNMENT



The inauguration of Commission Government is now fittingly commemorated by a handsome bronze tablet which adorns the east wall of the Council chamber, immediately above the Mayor's chair. The tablet is considered especially appropriate as a marker of one of the most important epochs in the history of the city, as the adoption of the present form of government is conceded to have been. A photograph of the tablet appears on this page.

### Shall City Own Lighting Plant?

The people of Memphis will be given an opportunity to express themselves at the polls upon the question of whether or not this city shall acquire and operate a municipal lighting plant. Authority to issue bonds sufficient for this purpose has already been obtained from the State Legislature, subject, however, to the approval of the citizens.

Mayor Crump and Commissioner Thos. Dies, in charge of public utilities, grounds and buildings, have given a great deal of thought lately to the subject of municipal lighting. With a view of feeling the "public pulse" on the question, the Mayor recently called into consultation a committee of citizens, picked at random from the business interests, and after discussing the proposition from all angles the committee expressed the unanimous opinion that Memphis should own and operate its own plant.

The committee was a most representative one. It was composed of James E. Stark, North Memphis lumberman; C. O. Scholder, special agent of the Standard Oil Company; S. F. McDonald, president of the Memphis Bread Co.; Otto Metzger, president of the Memphis Paper Co.; R. G. Morrow, president of the Memphis Furniture Manufacturing Co.

Under the franchise now held by the Merchants' Power Company, the city has the right to take that company over in 1915, at its actual physical valuation. Whether this option should be exercised or whether the city should go ahead now and build a new plant outright, is a question which the city officials are now debating. They have also received a proposition from a third corporation which seeks entry in the local field, to which they are giving due consideration.

### Auto Congestion is Big Problem

With the congestion on busy uptown streets becoming greater every day, on account of the rapid increase of automobiles, the city authorities are facing a very serious problem which Mayor Crump and Fire and Police Commissioner Utley are trying to solve. And it appears now as if the final solution, and the only practical one, will be a police regulation denying the use of all uptown streets for parking purposes.

Soon after Commission Government was inaugurated Main street was cleared of standing automobiles. This step was sufficient to relieve traffic conditions for a short while, after which it became necessary to place Madison avenue, west of Third street, within the restricted district. With these two important thoroughfares taken away from them, the automobilists then took to the alleys and side streets.

It was but a very few days before they were run out of the alleys on account of the danger in case of fire, when the fire department is frequently forced to use the alleys in order to reach the rear of buildings. Of course, with the restricted area growing all the time and the number of automobiles in service increasing, the congestion on other streets became greater, and it became necessary to extend the order to take in other territory.

Many cities in the North and East now require that automobiles be returned to garages when not in actual service, and it looks as if Memphis will have to follow suit.

### City May Operate Municipal Market

Memphis will join the ranks of cities having municipal markets if plans can be worked out whereby the present Beale Avenue Market House can be disposed of legally. Mayor Crump and Commissioner Thomas Dies are now investigating the proposition, with a view of overcoming, if possible, obstacles which now stand in the way in the shape of some remaining outstanding bonds on the old market house.

Some time ago the city commissioners appointed a special committee, composed of John W. Farley, Charles E. Brower and John L. Parham, to look into the feasibility of the establishment of a municipal market here. The report of this committee was entirely favorable to the project and the only question now remaining is how to finance the proposition without issuing bonds or placing an additional burden upon taxpayers. If a way can be devised whereby the Beale Avenue Market can be sold it is believed enough can be realized to establish a municipal market at some other point in the city where real estate values are lower.

Both the Mayor and Commissioner Dies are firm believers in the city owning and operating its own market place, thereby bringing the consumer in direct contact with the producer, to their mutual benefit. Such markets have proven very successful in Cincinnati, St. Louis and other cities, and there is no reason why they would not be equally successful here. Its effect would also be to encourage the farmers of the Memphis territory to raise more truck and would have a tendency to materially reduce the cost of living.

### Victory at Hand in Phone Fight

Mayor Crump's long fight for lower telephone rates and better service is nearing a victorious conclusion.

An ordinance providing a rate of \$5.50 for business phones, direct line; \$4 business phones, party line, and \$2.50 for residence phones, payable monthly, was introduced before the Board of City Commissioners on May 20th, and as MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT goes to press it appears certain that the ordinance will become a law on May 27.

Both Mayor Crump and City Attorney Charles M. Bryan are confident that the new ordinance will withstand any legal attack which the Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company may elect to make on it. A similar ordinance was annulled several months ago by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals, after it had successfully passed through the lower courts, because it was held the city was at that time without specific power to regulate phone rates. This obstacle has since been removed.

#### Crump Defeats Lobby.

After a long, hard fight Mayor Crump succeeded in getting a bill through the Tennessee Legislature specifically authorizing Memphis to regulate telephone rates. The Cumberland company, aided by other corporations, bitterly opposed the measure through the most powerful lobby ever sent to the Legislature. As a last desperate resort a buffer bill, delegating the power to regulate telephone rates to the State Railroad Commission, was introduced; however, it was passed only after Shelby and Hamilton counties were excluded from its operation.

Following the introduction of the new rate ordinance, J. Epps Brown, of Atlanta, vice-president and general manager of the Cumberland company, paid a visit to Memphis and made an urgent plea to Mayor Crump, receiving nothing more in return than courteous attention. After listening patiently to a recital of the improvements which the corporation were making in Memphis, the Mayor frankly told Mr. Brown that he had not been impressed with the argument, and the conference ended with nothing accomplished.

#### Mayor Stands Pat.

"While we are glad to see the Cumberland spend some of the money it has made out of Memphis during all these years, through a combination of high rates, poor service and starvation wages to its employees, I can not subscribe to the argument that this action would justify the city in calling off the fight for lower rates," said Mayor Crump, in discussing Mr. Brown's visit. "We all know that these people would not spend a dollar here or anywhere else unless the volume of business demanded it. Any investment they may make here will be an asset rather than a liability because property values are constantly on the increase in this progressive and growing city."

### Arkansas Editors Storm Memphis

Nearly one hundred strong, members of the Arkansas Press Association, with their wives, daughters and sweethearts, spent May 15 and 16 in Memphis, guests of the Business Men's Club. The local visit followed the annual meeting of the organization, held at Marianna, Ark.

A luncheon at the Business Men's Club, followed by an automobile tour of the city, which ended with a Dutch lunch at the Memphis Country Club, was the entertainment programme carried out. On the evening of the 15th the association held a business meeting at the Business Men's Club, at which time the subject of flood control was discussed at length.

On May 16 the association boarded the steamer Rees Lee and proceeded up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, making frequent stops along the way to become acquainted with the people who are most affected by the disastrous floods which have occurred periodically in the Mississippi valley. One of the main purposes of the trip was to seek the co-operation of Congressmen whose districts skirt the river on either side, in an effort to secure United States government protection.

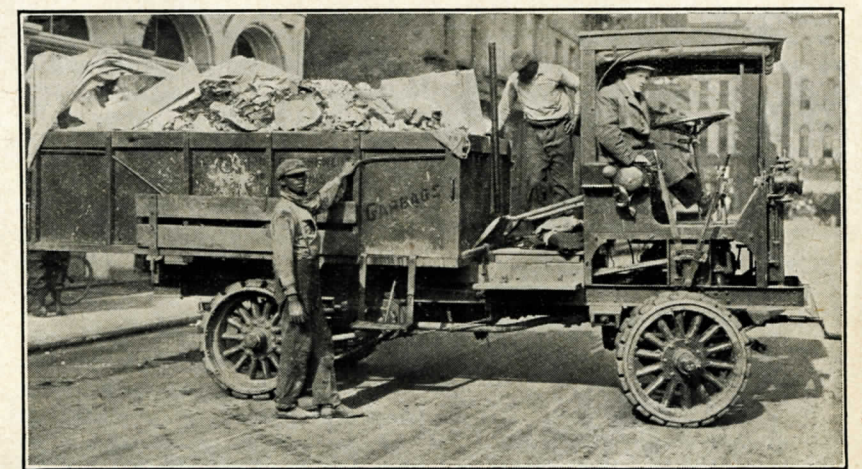
### City Negotiates For Negro Park

A park for the exclusive use of negroes will soon be added to the park system of the city of Memphis.

As MEMPHIS COMMISSION GOVERNMENT goes to press negotiations are under way looking to the purchase of a site located northeast of Memphis, just beyond the city limits, on the Louisville & Nashville railroad. The tract, known as Douglass Park, is beautifully wooded and has long been used as a picnic ground by negroes. It contains something over 30 acres and is well adapted to park purposes.

As soon as the formal transfer can be made the park will be properly equipped and thrown open to the negroes of the city. By that time it is expected the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company will have inaugurated a motor car service which will take care of the travel to and from the park.

Upon the recommendation of a special committee which made the selection, and of J. T. Willingham and Dr. B. F. Turner, members of the Park Commission, the City Commissioners have concurred in the purchase of the park, and little remains to be done before the city will have full title to the property.



### Auto Truck Gets Uptown Garbage

Few cities can boast of a more effective garbage system for business districts than can Memphis. The cleanliness of local uptown streets and alleys is the subject of comment from visitors on every hand, and credit for this must go to the City Health Department.

A large automobile truck is employed in removing garbage in the business district, taking the place of a dozen or more garbage carts and enabling the city to give a double daily service. In no case is garbage allowed to remain in

streets or alleyways for more than a few hours at a time, and then it must be kept in covered metal receptacles.

The residence sections are also well served by seventy carts, all of which are kept in continuous service. Garbage is destroyed in two crematories, located in the northern and southern sections of the city. Plans are now being formulated looking to the erection of a third crematory in the southeastern part of the city.



## COMMISSION MEETINGS IN TABLOID

**Tuesday, April 1, 1913.**

Present, Commissioners Dies, Parham and Utley.

Presiding officer, Vice-Mayor Utley.

Bids opened for resurfacing Monroe avenue from South Second street to Marshall avenue. Referred to City Engineer.

Ordinance amending an ordinance passed March 4, 1913, to regulate the selling of fruits, berries, vegetables and other garden products, passed first reading.

Ordinance entitled an ordinance granting the Union Railway Company the right to construct, operate and maintain a side track over and across Tanglewood avenue for the purpose of serving a material yard of the Union Sand & Material Co., passed first reading.

Acts of the members of the City Board of Equalization for 1913 approved.

Resolution adopted cancelling front foot assessment against property of the Georgia Industrial Realty Co., in return for which said company released the city of all claims for damages to their property account of the building of the Rayburn boulevard subway.

Agreement between city of Memphis and Central-State Bank & Trust Co., under which said bank acts as the city depository for the year 1913, approved. City gets interest at the rate of .0385 on deposits and pays at the rate of .0355 on overdrafts.

Resolution adopted correcting errors in front foot assessment against property of Palmer Realty Company and T. A. Goodwin.

**Tuesday, April 8, 1913.**

Present, Commissioners Dies, Love, Parham and Utley.

Presiding officer, Vice-Mayor Utley.

Contracts awarded to Pidgeon-Thomas Iron Co., for fifty complete fire hydrants and Crane Co. for fifty complete fire hydrants.

Ordinance amending ordinance to regulate the method of selling fruits, berries, etc., passed second reading.

Contract awarded Memphis Asphalt & Paving Co. for resurfacing Monroe avenue from South Second street to Marshall avenue.

Ordinance granting Union Railway Co. right to build side track across Tanglewood street, passed second reading.

Central-State Bank & Trust Co. filed bond in the sum of \$600,000 for faithful performance of their contract as city depository for 1913. Bond approved and ordered filed.

Glen View Park subdivision approved.

Letter of Mayor Crump to Commissioner Dies asking that all unsightly and partially wrecked sign boards and bill boards be ordered torn down or rebuilt and put in good shape, read and spread on the minutes.

**Tuesday, April 15, 1913.**

Present, Commissioners Dies, Love and Parham.

Presiding officer, Commissioner Love. (Mayor absent from the city and Vice-Mayor absent account illness in his family).

Ordinance amending ordinance to regulate the method of selling fruits, vegetables, berries, etc., passed final reading.

Ordinance granting Union Railway Co. right to build side track across Tanglewood street passed final reading.

An ordinance to regulate the connecting of sewer mains within property with the city sewer mains, sub-mains and laterals and to fix the charges for such connections, passed first reading.

Resolution adopted authorizing the water department to install meters in all cases where consumers under the flat rate plan are using more water than is paid for under said plan, or are wasting water.

Ordinance to change name of Tunis avenue passed first reading.

**Tuesday, April 22, 1913.**

Present, Mayor E. H. Crump and Commissioners Dies, Utley, Love and Parham.

Presiding officer, Mayor Crump.

Contract between city of Memphis and county of Shelby for taking care of and feeding city prisoners approved and signed by the Mayor.

Bids opened for sewer work at southwest corner Poplar avenue and Parkway, and in subway at the Parkway and N. C. & St. L. Railway. Referred to City Engineer.

Bids opened for paving Lamar boulevard from East street to Central avenue.

Ordinance to regulate the connecting of sewer lines within property to city sewers and fixing charges therefor, passed second reading.

Ordinance to change name of Tunis avenue passed second reading.

Resolution adopted inviting Shriners to hold next annual convention in Memphis.

Petition of Mrs. Jessie L. Davidson for exemption from front foot assessment rejected.

Improvement ordinance No. 341, to provide for the improvement of South Wellington street from Monroe avenue to Vance avenue, passed first reading.

**Wednesday, April 23, 1913.**

Present, Mayor Crump, Commissioners Dies, Love and Utley.

Presiding officer, Mayor Crump.

Park Commission authorized to purchase "Douglass Park" as a site for a park for colored people.

**Tuesday, April 29, 1913.**

Present, Hon. E. H. Crump, Mayor, and Commissioners Dies, Love, Utley and Parham.

Presiding officer, Mayor Crump.

Bids opened for annual contracts, as follows:

Furnishing bread at City Hospital.

Publishing ordinances, notices and all public advertising.

Feeding city prisoners at the police station.

Furnishing all materials and supplies used in the engineering department.

Authority given the City Engineer to advertise for culvert work at Trigg avenue and Kennedy street.

Contract awarded Larkin & Co. for sewer work at Poplar avenue and Parkway.

Contract awarded T. A. Garvin for sewer work in subway at N. C. & St. L. Railway and Parkway.

Resolution adopted increasing salary of superintendent of City Hospital from \$1,500 a year to \$2,000 a year.

Ordinance to regulate the connecting of sewers to city sewers and fixing charges therefor passed final reading.

Ordinance changing name of Tunis avenue to East Courtland place passed final reading.

Improvement Ordinance No. 341 passed second reading.

Resolutions adopted correcting errors in front foot assessments of Claud H. Bright, I. Bernstein, Rose Magevney and P. J. Heffernan.

Mayor's quarterly report for first quarter year 1913 received and filed.

Contract with Barron Collier Co. for gas and gasoline street lighting approved and ratified.



## ***VITAL FACTS CONCERNING MEMPHIS***

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**Memphis** is one of the largest cities in the world under COMMISSION form of government.

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**Memphis** is the healthiest city in the South, having one of the lowest death rates in the United States.

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**Memphis** has 170 miles of beautiful paved thoroughfares.

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**Memphis** washes streets, flushes sewers, and fights fires with the finest artesian water in the world.

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**Memphis**, with her 17 lines of railroads and the Mississippi River enjoys the most attractive freight rates in the South.

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**Memphis** is the world's largest inland cotton market, handling more than a million bales of the fleecy staple annually.

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**Memphis** is the largest hardwood lumber market in the world, according to United States government authority, and is growing in importance every day.

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**Memphis** produces more cotton seed products than any other city in the world.

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**Memphis** is the third largest grocery jobbing market in the United States, catering to a territory unsurpassed by any other section of the country.

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**Memphis** parks, covering 814 acres, with her 24 miles of parkway, are famous throughout the nation. Their estimated value is over \$4,000,000.

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**Memphis** has the largest and most complete zoological garden in the South.

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**Memphis** has magnificent public buildings.

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**Memphis** is the home of 175 steamboats.

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**Memphis** has 120 miles of street railway.

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**Memphis** has 160 churches.

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**Memphis** has 25 colleges and seminaries.

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**Memphis** has six business colleges and two medical colleges.

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**Memphis** has a superb public school system.

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**Memphis** has ten hospitals and three public libraries.



# Commission Government Means Progress

## *WHAT IS YOUR TAX RATE?*

**T**HIS is the first and most important question to be answered by any city to the prospective investor. Memphis taxpayers are now enjoying the lowest rate in the city's history—a total reduction of 18 cents having been made since the advent of COMMISSION GOVERNMENT—three years ago. Here is the record for 27 years:

YEAR	MAYOR	RATE
1886	Hadden	\$2.35
1887	Hadden	2.35
1888	Hadden	2.35
1889	Hadden	2.35
1890	Bethel	2.35
1891	Clapp	1.75
1892	Clapp	1.75
1893	Clapp	1.75
1894	Clapp	1.70
1895	Clapp	1.80
1896	Clapp	2.07
1897	Clapp	2.04
1898	Williams	1.99
1899	Williams	2.24
1900	Williams	2.09
1901	Williams	2.05
1902	Williams	2.35
1903	Williams	2.88
1904	Williams	2.18
1905	Williams	2.54
1906	Malone	2.16
1907	Malone	1.97
1908	Malone	1.96
1909	Malone	1.76
1910	Crump—Commission Government	1.75
1911	Crump—Commission Government	1.59
1912	Crump—Commission Government	1.58
1913	Crump—Commission Government	1.58

*Low Tax Rate*

*Low Freight Rates*

*Low Death Rate*